

but the plants do not appear to be dwarfed. The halophytic Old Guard, though surrounded by advancing enemies, is not yet ready to surrender.

MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

NOTE ON BOEHMERIA CYLINDRICA, VAR. DRUMMONDIANA.

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IN 1854, in his *Revue de la Famille des Urticées*, Weddell described from Texas a *Boehmeria* as follows: "B. DRUMMONDIANA †: foliis ovatis, acutis, subacuminatis, basi subcordatis, serratis, rigidulis, supra hispidulis demum glabratis asperrimis, subtus molliter pubescenti-tomentosis; spicis brevibus, erectis.—Texas (Drummond, pl. exs., no. 267)."¹

Subsequently, however, Weddell concluded that the plant was only a variety of *Boehmeria cylindrica* (L.) Sw.,² treating it in DeCandolle's *Prodromus* as *B. cylindrica*, β , *Drummondiana*.³

In 1889, Porter, describing a plant which is found in bogs of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania characterized it as follows: "*Boehmeria cylindrica*, Willd., var. SCABRA, n. var.—Erect, strict, 2 feet high; leaves thick and rigid, very rough on the upper surface, tomentose beneath, on short petioles or almost sessile [,] usually reflexed and pressed against the stem; spikes densely flowered, much longer than the petioles."⁴

Under the name, var. *scabra* Porter, the plant with the leaves harsh above and more or less tomentulose beneath has been generally taken up, and Small has advanced it to specific rank as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small,⁵ with a range extending from "New York to Michigan, Kansas, Florida and Texas." But no one in recent years seems to

¹ Weddell, *Ann. des Sci. Nat.* 4^{me} Sér., i. 201 (1854).

² *B. cylindrica* is very commonly cited as dating from Willd. *Sp.* iv. 340 (1805); but it was clearly published in Swartz, *Prodr. Veg. Ind. Occ.* 34 (1788).

³ Weddell in D. C. *Prodr.* xvi. pt. 1, 202 (1869).

⁴ Porter, *Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl.* xvi. 21 (1889).

⁵ Small, *Fl. S. E. U. S.* 358 (1903).

have noted the fact that Weddell had already described *B. cylindrica*, var. *Drummondiana* (*B. Drummondiana*) with the same peculiarities of foliage as those which characterize var. *scabra* Porter. A specimen of Drummond's no. 267 (the type number of Weddell's species or variety) is in the Gray Herbarium and it is identical with the plant of broad distribution on the coastal plain from Nantucket to northern Mexico which is generally passing as var. *scabra*. Although easily separated from typical *B. cylindrica*, the variety often simulates it in having the leaves thinner and on longer petioles than in the extreme of the variety, and in bogs and open situations the smooth-leaved plant often has thick short-petioled leaves which simulate those of the variety. It is thus apparent that it is wise to accept Weddell's mature judgment and that of Dr. Porter, in regarding the plant as a variety of *B. cylindrica* rather than a distinct species. In fact, Mr. E. P. Bicknell, who has often urged that the occurrence of transitional forms should not invalidate the title to specific rank of plants which in their extremes are easily recognizable, is inclined to follow the conclusion of Weddell and of Porter, for, in his critical notes on *The Ferns and Flowering Plants of Nantucket*, although listing the plant as *B. scabra* (Porter) Small, he adds the note: "Typical examples appear very distinct from *Boehmeria cylindrica* but the two plants seem to run together and may prove to be only extreme conditions of one species."¹

By those who still incline to treat the plant as a species it should be known, then, not as *Boehmeria scabra* (Porter) Small but as *B. Drummondiana* Weddell; while by those who feel that the facts of Nature are more precisely stated by treating as varieties plants which are known freely to intergrade it will be called *B. cylindrica* (L.) Sw., var. *Drummondiana* Weddell.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

MENYANTHES TRIFOLIATA IN WEST VIRGINIA.—While I was on a collecting trip, to what was once a spruce and hemlock swamp at Cranesville, W. Va., in 1904, my attention was called to a plant growing there that no one seemed to know and which was reputed to have certain medicinal properties. I did not recognize the plant from the description given by the gentleman who inquired about it. I was so

¹ Bicknell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xxxvi. 29 (1909).